

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly



Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Berkeley Issues Comprehensive Report.

The annual report of the Berkeley Health Department, covering the fiscal year July 1, 1925, to June 30, 1926, has just been received. Dr. W. P. Shepard was Health Officer of Berkeley during that period and the comprehensive report represents a large amount of work upon his part. In the "foreword" Dr. Shepard takes cognizance of the growing demand of the general public for information relative to personal and public health. He states:

"It has been necessary to discuss briefly certain morbid conditions to which the human race is subject. It has also been necessary to base our discussion largely upon the accuracy of death reports, rather than upon the inaccuracy of reports of cases of illness. This has been done in a frank manner in spite of a certain mental hazard involved. This hazard arises from the fact that some persons fortunately few in number, need but know the unpleasant details of an illness to immediately imagine that they are suffering from that illness. Such a reaction is largely attributable to three things: First, abysmal ignorance of the known facts of physiology; Second, a remnant of the mysticism which has always surrounded the practice of the healing arts; and Third, a tendency on the part of the individual toward an unstable mental balance. Recognition of this mental hazard accounts for the reticence of many physicians to discuss their patient's physical condition with them.

It is believed, however, that the time has come for people to know more of their individual and collective health. It is being proven that mystery no longer surrounds the practice of medicine. It is our contention that the majority of the citizens of Berkeley, at least, will not be troubled with instability of mind to the extent that they can not be permitted a brief study of the actual health conditions under which they live."

The report is illustrated with twelve graphs which show clearly the excellent results in the work of the department. Berkeley has one of the lowest infant death rates of any city in the United States, but the department is not content with this record and proposes to lower the rate still further. A considerable amount of work is also done in the promotion of the welfare of the preschool child. Significant results are also being secured in the enforcement of measures for the control of the communicable diseases. An account of a striking instance of the control of whooping cough in a school composed, largely, of nonimmune pupils, is most interesting. Without adequate public health nursing service this control would have been impossible. The work of this nursing unit in the Berkeley Health Department is of outstanding importance. Few cities maintain better nursing service. Large volumes of work were undertaken also by the divisions of milk, food and sanitation and the laboratory. The report concludes with an account of the opening of the city's "Sunshine School" for persistently undernourished children.

Status Of Scarlet Fever Immunization.

The attitude of health departments, generally, toward the procedure of immunization against scarlet fever is well expressed in the following statement issued recently by the Detroit Department of Health:

"While the department does not advocate the general immunization of all children against scarlet fever, for the reason that as yet immunity conferred lasts for only a comparatively short time, a year or two, it does believe that the immunization of definite contacts is worth while.

Since immunization against scarlet fever is a comparatively new thing, we have acquired the services of a physician who will be glad to consult with either private physicians or parents regarding the advisability of giving the scarlet fever protection in any given instance, or if requested to do so, to himself give the immunization. Private physicians desiring such service please call the registrar's office, and state whether you wish consultation, or the actual immunization of the contact, or both.

The protective treatment consists of a single injection of one cubic centimeter given intra-muscularly, and obviously should be given at the earliest possible moment after exposure.

Results obtained by others lead us to believe that there is justification in offering the toxin for definite exposures, but as yet we are unable to make any definite statements as to how soon immunity is produced or how long it lasts. This department is not urging scarlet fever immunization of all contacts; it is merely offering this service to those who desire it as this method is still in the experimental stage.

The single injection and amount to be given, spoken of in a preceding paragraph, has reference to only one particular type of scarlet fever immunization. There are several types of immunization, differing somewhat from the one described, both as to number of injections and amount to be given.

As previously stated, scarlet fever immunization is not as yet recommended by this department for general use, but only for children actually exposed to the disease."



Ignorance and disease are boon companions. They flee from truth and knowledge as the night flies before the morning.

Course in Market Milk for Dairy Inspectors.

Dr. C. L. Roadhouse, head of the Division of Dairy Industry of the College of Agriculture of the University of California, has sent the following notice which should be of interest to all health departments in the state:

The University of California, through its College of Agriculture, is offering a ten day short course to dairy inspectors and market milk producers and distributors, which will be given in the Dairy Industry Division, University Farm, Davis, California, February 7th to 17th.

This notice is included in the California State Board of Health Weekly Bulletin for the information of health officers who may be interested in arranging for their dairy inspectors to attend this course.

Courses are also offered given concurrently, in bacteriology, butter, cheese and ice cream manufacture.

Some of the dairy plant operators in the state are giving worthy employees the advantage of these courses with expenses paid. Others encourage their employees to attend and give them a leave of absence with pay.

In past years the health officers of California have not been on the mailing list, but this notice is prepared in order that they may know that these courses are open to dairy inspectors of the state.



We do not ask a sufferer: What is your country or your religion? We say: It is enough that you are suffering. You belong to me and I will care for you.—Pasteur.



Uses Device To Stimulate Immunization.

Dr. Wm. C. Hassler, city health officer of San Francisco, in order to stimulate enthusiasm in an antidiphtheria campaign, has adopted the policy of giving an attractive badge to each child who has received three doses of toxin-antitoxin. More than a thousand of these badges have been given to children who have been immunized during the latter part of the year 1926. The brilliantly colored button appeals to children and there is a widespread interest in the device through which a strong pride of ownership has been developed. Other health departments throughout the state may be interested in the plan to adopt a particular campaign badge for this purpose.

The Conquest Of Contamination.

Under the above title, Harry N. Jenks, sanitary engineer, writes as follows in the December issue of the *Bulletin* of the Sacramento City Health Department:

"While carrying on the unending activities of a highly complex social and industrial life, the nation must continually fight contamination and infection of every sort, in order to preserve its health. It is a rule of life that there is always a tendency among living organisms towards self-destruction by the waste products incident to living itself. Man is no exception to this law, since the chief infective agent of mankind is man. He has, however, set up one great barrier against infection, by perfecting methods of water purification. The burden of safeguarding the public health has been placed upon the designers and operators of water filtration plants.

In every city of the United States, every man, woman and child, day and night, is dependent upon the faithfulness and skill with which operators of water works discharge their duties. We are apt to overlook the tremendous responsibility they assume in furnishing the water we drink, and, instead, we take for granted the immunity to water-borne diseases which, as a result of their care, we continuously enjoy.

The work of the water works superintendent and operators ranks in responsibility and altruism with that of the medical profession. In contrast to the doctor, however, who has the health only of the individual periodically under his care, the water works operator has the health of an entire community in his keeping, all the time. Water works management and direction is a well-established profession. The engineers, chemists and bacteriologists engaged in this work devote their entire ability and energy to the conquest of contamination and the furtherance of the prosperity of the nation through promoting the public health.

PURE WATER, UNLIMITED

Throughout the ages it has been the pressing need of mankind to secure an abundance of water of a healthful quality. Before the introduction of present-day methods of water purification, we had to drink water as we found it and be thankful that there might be

plenty of it. Ever and anon the tragedy of suffering and death, in the form of water-borne diseases, stalked upon the stage of human experience. As no means were at hand either to ward off the diseases or counteract them when they did appear, these spectres took their own time in making their exist from the stage before reappearing again. In due season, however, Pasteur lived and laid the foundations of modern bacteriology upon which are based the principles of water purification as we make use of them today. In the practical application of these principles, the sanitary engineer has wiped out the dreaded disease of cholera from the entire nation and almost from the entire western world. Dysentery and typhoid are rapidly disappearing also, but still much work remains to be done in those communities that as yet have not availed themselves of water filtration."



MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

152 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 3, Oakland 4, Butte County 5, Chico 7, Colusa County 1, Colusa 1, Fresno County 2, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 3, Azusa 1, Burbank 3, Compton 2, El Monte 2, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 53, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 2, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 4, Santa Ana 4, Riverside 3, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino 1, Upland 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 13, San Joaquin County 1, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 1, Santa Cruz 1, Sonoma County 1, Cloverdale 1, Dinuba 1, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 1, Marysville 1.

Scarlet Fever.

280 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 4, Berkeley 5, Oakland 20, Butte County 2, Gridley 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 1, Kern County 13, Lemoore 1, Los Angeles County 16, Alhambra 3, Beverly Hills 2, Compton 3, Glendale 9, Hermosa 2, Huntington Park 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 46, Pasadena 4, Pomona 1, Redondo 2, San Gabriel 1, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 2, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 3, Monterey Park 1, Mill Valley 1, Merced 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 5, Fullerton 6, Huntington Beach 3, Santa Ana 6, Riverside County 2, Banning 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 3, Colton 1, Redlands 2, San Bernardino 2, San Diego 7, San Francisco 32, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 2, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 9, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 12, Sonoma County 4, Healdsburg 1, Stanislaus County 2, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 2.

Measles.

1537 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 15, Alameda 32, Berkeley 88, Piedmont 3, Oakland 145, San Leandro 6, Butte County 17, Chico 5, Gridley

*From reports received on January 17th and 18th for week ending January 15th.

2, Oroville 5, Calaveras County 2, Colusa 3, Pittsburg 1, Richmond 7, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 7, Fresno 16, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 9, Taft 1, Hanford 2, Lakeport 2, Lassen County 27, Los Angeles County 73, Alhambra 3, Avalon 1, Beverly Hills 1, Compton 1, El Monte 10, Glendale 3, Los Angeles 99, Montebello 3, Pasadena 4, Redondo 1, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 43, Torrance 10, Monterey Park 1, Marin County 1, Sausalito 5, Ukiah 2, Merced County 4, Gustine 4, Merced 5, Monterey County 5, Napa 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 41, Anaheim 3, Fullerton 27, Huntington Beach 19, Santa Ana 4, Seal Beach 1, Lincoln 5, Riverside County 17, Riverside 4, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 62, San Bernardino County 2, Colton 1, Ontario 1, Redlands 7, San Bernardino 21, San Diego 36, San Francisco 154, San Joaquin County 134, Lodi 26, Stockton 125, San Luis Obispo County 2, Burlingame 2, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara County 36, Gilroy 2, Palo Alto 21, San Jose 13, Sunnyvale 2, Siskiyou County 3, Benecia 5, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 5, Modesto 5, Sutter County 7, Corning 5, Red Bluff 2, Tulare County 2, Dinuba 1, Lindsay 1, Visalia 1, Tuolumne County 4, Yolo County 27, Davis 1, Winters 2, Woodland 5.

Smallpox.

23 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Oakland 6, Napa County 1, San Francisco 1, Sonoma County 12, Healdsburg 3.

Typhoid Fever.

14 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Imperial County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 3, Arcadia 1, Hermosa 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Modesto 1.

Whooping Cough.

83 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 23, Oakland 7, Livermore 3, Piedmont 1, Pittsburg 1, Humboldt County 4, Los Angeles County 8, Glendale 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 6, Whittier 3, Monterey Park 1, Anaheim 2, Brea 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 12, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara 4.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

3 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Azusa 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Napa 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

Los Angeles reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

Leprosy.

Los Angeles reported one case of leprosy.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1926-1927				1925-1926			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 15 received by Jan. 18	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 16 received by Jan. 19
	Dec. 25	Jan. 1	Jan. 8		Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	
Anthrax.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Chickenpox.....	230	262	480	416	155	220	312	260
Diphtheria.....	155	131	186	152	76	81	90	80
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	4	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
Encephalitis (Epidemic).....	4	0	1	1	1	5	1	1
Gonococcus Infection.....	62	94	105	98	43	74	112	116
Influenza.....	34	36	37	41	101	186	465	614
Jaundice (Epidemic).....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy.....	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0
Malaria.....	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Measles.....	596	830	1284	1537	14	30	44	38
Meningitis (Epidemic).....	5	6	6	3	3	4	5	4
Mumps.....	57	97	161	216	119	169	299	161
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pneumonia (Lobar).....	102	109	110	98	49	138	130	77
Poliomyelitis.....	0	2	3	3	7	3	1	0
Rabies (Animal).....	5	6	6	8	4	6	0	8
Rabies (Human).....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	252	200	232	280	95	138	173	139
Smallpox.....	10	8	22	23	62	54	81	145
Syphilis.....	78	119	150	110	68	87	147	104
Tetanus.....	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Trachoma.....	5	7	0	2	0	1	1	19
Trichinosis.....	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Tuberculosis.....	124	184	157	123	193	126	170	169
Typhoid Fever.....	17	13	26	14	14	15	16	16
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	52	53	94	83	36	77	109	80
Totals.....	1789	2152	3064	3210	1041	1421	2159	2034